

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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R 082221Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, S;UM

SUBJECT: MOSCOW SEMINAR ON COLLECTIVE PHENOMENA (MSCP)

1. SIX MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS MET WITH OES ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK APRIL 6 TO INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT TWELVE US SCIENTISTS PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE MOSCOW SEMINAR ON COLLECTIVE PHENOMENA (MSCP) 17-20 APRIL. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES SAID MSCP WAS ORGANIZED BY SOVIET SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER RESTRICTION BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AND SERVES AS A MEANS TO REMAIN PROFESSIONALLY ACTIVE. ORGANIZERS INCLUDE BENJAMIN LEVICH, MARK AZBEL

AND VIKTOR AND IRIHA BRAILOVSKY, AND MSCP MEETS GENERALLY IN AZBEL'S APARTMENT ON SUNDAYS AT NOON. EMBASSY IS AWARE
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THAT WESTERN SCIENTISTS REGULARLY ATTEND AS VISITORS OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR THEIR SOVIET COLLEAGUES AND TO HELP KEEP THEM AWARE OF THE CURRENT STATE OF SCIENCE. THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MSCP SCHEDULED DURING 1974 RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY BUT DID NOT TAKE PLACE BECAUSE OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

2. COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS, EMBASSY WILL ALSO RECALL, WAS FORMED IN 1972 PRIMARILY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED EMIGRATION OR WHO ARE OUTSPOKEN ON CIVIL RIGHTS. COMMITTEE, CLAIMING TO REPRESENT FOUR THOUSAND MEMBERS, HAS ORGANIZED US PARTICIPATION IN FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MSCP. COMMITTEE BELIEVES US-USSR S&T EXCHANGE WILL SUFFER FROM CONTINUED RESTRICTIONS ON SOVIET SCIENTISTS. WE SAID WE THOUGHT EXCHANGE IN LONG RUN WOULD WORK TO ADVANTAGE OF RESTRICTED SCIENTISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

3. DELEGATION EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT EMBASSY AND CONSULATE BE AWARE OF US SCIENTISTS' INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE. DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THEY WERE FREE TO TAKE PART AND EXPRESS THEIR PRIVATE VIEWS TO SOVIET COLLEAGUES BUT SHOULD NOT LOOK FOR TROUBLE. THEY WERE ALSO ADVISED OF SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON ANTI-SOVIET LITERATURE AND CARRYING PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION. PASSPORT OFFICE GUIDE FOR TRAVELERS TO USSR WAS PROVIDED. MOST PARTICIPANTS ARE TRAVELING TO SOVIET UNION ON TOURS, AND THEIR VISAS ARE BEING OBTAINED BY TOUR OPERATORS WITH NO MENTION OF THEIR PLANS TO ATTEND SEMINAR. SOME WILL STOP AT LENINGRAD AS WELL AS MOSCOW. ALL WERE ADVISED TO REGISTER WITH CONSULATE AND/OR EMBASSY.

4. DELEGATION EXPRESSED FEARS FOR SAFETY OF SOVIET COLLEAGUES AND PROBED WHAT ACTION DEPARTMENT COULD TAKE ON THEIR BEHALF. THEY SEEMED GRUDGINGLY RESIGNED TO OUR REPLY THAT ALTHOUGH WE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTERPARTS' COURAGE, WE COULD NOT ENCOURAGE THEM TO BELIEVE WE COULD INTERVENE ON BEHALF SOVIET CITIZENS.

5. DELEGATION ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO UNDELIVERABILITY OF MAIL TO SOVIET SIDE. PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS ARE ALLEGEDLY RETURNED MARKED UNDELIVERABLE, AND LETTERS FREQUENTLY NEVER ARRIVE. THEY SUGGESTED EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ASSURE DELIVERY. WE REPLIED THAT THIS PROBLEM WAS BEST DEALT WITH THROUGH INTERNATIONAL POSTAL AGENCIES FROM THIS SIDE.

6. LIST OF US ATTENDEES AND AFFILIATIONS FOLLOWS (LATEST BACKGROUND DATA ON MSCP FORWARDED TO EMBASSY BY POUCH, REGISTRY NUMBER 3,44846): PROF. ERIC FAWCETT, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO; PROF. WILLIAM GLABERSON, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY; DR. ROBERT F. GOLDBERGER, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH,

DR. MAX GOTTESMAN, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH; PROF.

JAMES GRIFFIN, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND; PROF. MARIO D.
GROSSI, HARVARD-SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY; PROF.
BERTRAND I. HALPERIN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY; PROF. JAMES
LANGER, CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY; PROF. JEFFREY LUDFORD,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY; PROF. NATHAN MARCUVITZ, POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK, PROF. GEORGE WALD, HARVARD
UNIVERSITY, AND PROF. KENNETH G. WILSON, CORNELL
UNIVERSITY.
VANCE

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